

Appl. No. : 10/621,740
Filed : July 17, 2003

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 5, 2007. Claims 1-5 and 16 are pending, Claims 6-15 having been canceled and Claim 16 added herein.

In accordance with the restriction indicated in the Office Action and consonant with the previous oral election, Applicant has canceled Claims 6-15 directed to a non-elected invention.

Consistent with restriction of the claims of this application to the "door shock" aspect of the invention, Applicant has requested amendment of the Title of the Invention.

By the Office Action, the Examiner indicated the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yokoto (USPN 6,962,528). Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to more distinctly claim the invention and asserts that Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art, including Yokoto.

One aspect of the present invention is a gaming machine having a door which opens about a vertical axis, i.e. which opens sideways. As indicated in the Detailed Description of the Invention, various sensitive gaming equipment may be mounted to the door. In order to reduce the probability of damage to those components, a door shock is provided. The door shock is preferably configured to resist movement of the door from its open to its closed position. In this manner, the door shock advantageously aids in maintaining the door in an open position and dampens closing movement of the door, as detailed in the Application at paragraph [0115]. This aids in preventing damage to the components which might otherwise occur if the door were to be slammed shut.

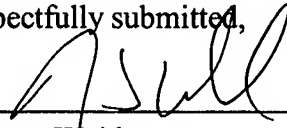
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Such a configuration is recited in Claim 1, wherein a gaming apparatus has a door rotatable about a vertical axis, and a door shock mounted in a vertical plane, the door shock configured to resist movement of the door from its open to its closed position.

This configuration is contrary to that disclosed in Yokoto, and is asserted to be non-obvious in view of Yokoto. Yokoto discloses a gaming device having a main door which may be raised upwardly. Because of the effort which would be needed to lift the door manually to its open position, Yokoto discloses the use of a hydraulic cylinders (24). As disclosed, “due to the extending force of hydraulic cylinders 24, 24, the administrator etc is able to open main door 20 without exerting much force” and “on the other hand, in order to close main door 20 when this is open, it suffices for the administrator to push downwards in the region of the elbow rest 19.” “Since the main portion of main door 20 is formed of an iron plate and so it is comparatively heavy, once the administrator has pushed main door 20 part of the way, it closes under its own weight.” See Yokoto at col. 4, lines 7-18. In this regard, it is clear that Yokoto uses hydraulic cylinders configured to generate a raising force to move the door from a closed to an open position, and that the cylinders are not for resisting movement of the door to a closed position, contrary to the configuration which is claimed.

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If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
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